

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend/correct the following informalities/typographical errors in the specification:

Please replace the background heading on page 1, line 3 with the following:

### **Background of the Invention**

Please replace the paragraph on page 6 that spans from line 9 to line 25 with the following amended paragraph:

The perpendicular passage intersections disclosed in the '920 patent have sharp, turbulence-causing edges and require an abrupt change of gas flow direction. The multiple exhaust passages, annular recess and space around the valve body dramatically increase the dead volume in the valve. Further, only one, if any, of the exhaust ports is aligned with the gas flow passage leading to the bolt. Gas flow from any of the other exhaust ports to the bolt requires at least one, and sometimes several, changes of direction. It is well understood that a change of direction in a flow of fluid saps energy from the fluid. The internal turbulence, multiple changes of direction and increased dead volume of the '920 flow passage design result in less than optimal fluid flow through the valve. A further deficiency of the valve configuration disclosed in the '920 patent is that the valve stem is largely unsupported as it passes through the center of the valve body. This unsupported configuration presents the possibility of valve seal misalignment with the intake port. Misalignment of the seal with its seat may result in uneven seal wear and/or in leakage through the valve.